

# OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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CIRCULAR 588

43

Origin

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US Del informed NATO HAC Meeting October 3 that USG proposing to take following actions next week re shipping with Cuba:

1. Close all US ports to all ships of any country if any ship under the flag of that country hereafter carries arms to Cuba.

2. Direct that no government cargo shall be carried on a foreign flag ship if any ship of the same owners is used hereafter in Bloc-Cuba trade.

3. Direct that no United States flag ship and no United States owned ship shall carry goods to or from Cuba.

4. Close all United States ports to any ship that on the same continuous voyage was used or is being used in Bloc-Cuba trade.

US Del reiterated that these proposals reflect continuing seriousness with which USG, Congress and American public view Cuban shipping problem and importance we attach to making Soviet buildup of Cuba as difficult and expensive as possible.

~~Initial reaction to statement was bland. Following consultation with their government, more informed and responsive reaction may be forthcoming.~~

We

Drafted by:

ARA:WPChase:lp 10/3/62

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

ARA - Mr. Chase

Clearances:

U - Mr. ~~Springstear~~ Springstear

S/S

Mr. Slater

EUR - Mr. Popper

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We recognized that preceding contemplated actions may cause some problems for shipping companies in certain NATO countries but hope that NATO member governments, through consultation these companies, will be able persuade them to make necessary adjustments. This connection, steps which we are considering to carry out point 2 will take into account existing charter arrangements, and there will be some administrative "phasing in" on other points.

~~Secretary orally informed CAS Formins currently meeting Washington Oct 2 of above proposed actions re shipping with Cuba.~~

First report indicates that Council reps appeared to appreciate seriousness of US presentation. There were few questions. Council reps now informing Govts; no specific date immediately set for resumption of discussion.

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END

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